

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/082,875	MATSUNAGA, KATSUYA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Laurel E LeFlore	2673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 30 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,13-16,21,25,27 and 28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/20/05</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jim Boice, Reg. No. 44,545 on 20 April 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An input unit comprising:

a sensor which detects a displacement;

a plate-like main unit supporting said sensor;

a finger support member pivotally coupled to said main unit;

said sensor, said main unit, and said finger support member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member is pivoted inline with said main unit;

at least two open-close members, pivotally coupled to said main unit, each open-close member having a different switch coupled thereto;

said sensor, said main unit, said finger support member, and said open-close member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member and said open-close member are pivoted inline with said main unit, wherein

operation of the respective switches of said open-close members is effected by sandwiching said finger support member between two provided fingers,

wherein said switches are operable when the provided finger tips are placed between said main unit and said finger support member such that a user's fingers support said finger support member in a pivoted open state,

wherein the plate-like structure is stowable in a card slot of an information processing unit.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

an information processing unit;

an input unit;

said input unit further comprising:

a plate-like main unit having a sensor for detecting a displacement;

a finger support member pivotally coupled to said main unit;

at least two open-close members, pivotally coupled to said main unit, each of the at least two open-close members having a respective switch coupled thereto;

said main unit and said finger support member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member is pivoted inline with said main unit, wherein operation of the respective switches is effected by sandwiching said finger support member between two fingers; and

~~at least one switch coupled to said main unit,~~ wherein said switches are operable when the provided fingertips are placed between said main unit and

said finger support member such that a user's fingers support said finger support member in a pivoted open state.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A sensor, plate-like main unit, finger support member and switches, "wherein said switches are operable when the provided fingertips are placed between said main unit and said finger support member such that a user's fingers support said finger support member in a pivoted open state", as in claims 1 and 15, or wherein "said switches being operable when the provided fingertips are placed between said main unit and said finger support member such that a user's fingers support said finger support member in a pivoted open state, as in claims 13 and 27, along with the other recitations of the claims, was not found in any prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laurel E LeFlore whose telephone number is (571) 272-7672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

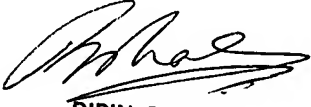
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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20 April 2005


BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800